

WILMINGTON, N. C.
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1871

Our Fire Department.

No citizen of Wilmington, who was present, can fail to appreciate the great improvement in our Fire Department, as evinced at the fire on Wednesday night. We do not claim that the organization is perfect by any means, or that improvements could not yet be made, but we are not disposed to find fault where all did so well. Possibly some of the property destroyed might have been saved, certainly much more, very much more, would have been burnt but for the efforts of the Fire Department. We have seen fires within the past few years, which had not gained such headway as that of Wednesday night, where the water was in much greater supply, and in localities not half as dangerous, do much more damage.

The improvement is owing rather to the increased facilities than to any greater discipline in the Department. The two steam fire engines and the improved apparatus of the Hook and Ladder Company give us all the facilities which our necessities demand—efficient and that necessities permit to be met with advantage.

The recent fire proves the force of the objections raised by us against the purchase of another steamer for the Fire Department. The two we have mastered the flames so long as the supply of water lasted. But all the water within reach of the fire was soon exhausted, although the scene of the conflagration was in a most populous and central portion of the city, and but for the efficiency of the Hook and Ladder Company, the flames would have spread to neighboring buildings and adjacent squares. All present must have been surprised and pleased to see how rapidly the fire of the steamers mastered the flames—for it was but for a short while only that both could be used at the same time. The unanimous opinion of those present was that one at least of the houses destroyed would have been saved if there had been water sufficient for either of the engines.

Now, with great respect for gentlemen—large property owners and citizens of character—who petitioned for the purchase of another steamer, we desire to suggest that the five or six thousand dollars which it will cost to buy a more advantageously expended in the construction of cisterns. We are satisfied that the engines we already have will be able to control any fire which will occur in the next decade, if they are supplied with water. Anyhow, another will only render the deficiency of water more apparent without adding at all to the efficiency of the Department.

We have spoken of no fire to find fault with; with a purpose, view, but only from a wish to render property more secure from the ravages of fires. Our city government ought to spend money to improve the facilities of our Fire Department, but not in the purchase of engines.

"Loyalty."

There is no word in the whole English vocabulary which has gathered more of reproach and disrepute about it, on account of the manner in which, of late years, it has been perverted, than the word *Loyalty*, which, taken in its true significance of fidelity to the sovereign, in a Monarchy, or to the Constitution, in a Republic, is a noble and admirable sentiment and principle. Like a few other words, its meaning has been entirely reversed, by the way in which it has been employed, and it is now made to convey an idea diametrically different from that which originally and properly attached to it. It has come to mean devotion to a faction, that is, a party upon the Constitution, and seeking to subvert that sacred instrument—the advocacy of factional and dangerous innovations, utterly inconsistent with the true genius and spirit of our institutions—attachment to revolutionary and anarchical ideas, that can only triumph on the ruins of all that is good and venerated in government. And hence it is, that those who are now flippantly branded as "disloyal," are really the best and only friends of the Government and its Constitution; and those who, with a disgusting and Pharisaical affectation of political virtue, claim to be "loyal," are the most pestilent enemies of the Republic. And hence, too, it has come about, that the word "disloyalty," so far from having any terrors for good and patriotic men, is really accepted as a compliment and a badge of honor when flung at them by the corrupt and designing demagogues and destructives, who are seeking to rule or ruin.

"Loyalty," too, within a few years past, has been made to assume as many and as variant hues as the Chameleon, its prototype in the animal world. How, in North Carolina, particularly, during that interval, the miserable creatures, who arrogate all the "loyalty," have changed its application with a most convenient frequency. For a considerable time after the surrender, it meant support of President Johnson's policy; and in a short time it consisted in denunciation of that functionary as the tyrant of the White House. In 1865 it signified, in the language of the late Gov. Holden, "unqualified opposition to negro suffrage"—now it means the elevation of the negro, not only to political, but social, equality. At one time it was contained in the doctrine that the States never were out of the Union—and anon, and still, in the idea that they are conquered provinces that need repeated reconstruction. And, on, through the driving, shifting, capricious phases of the word.

Whenever you hear a man, like that old coward, Jack F. Smith, prating of his *proffers*, you may write him down a wretched poltroon; and whenever you see one vaunting his *peculiar* honesty, you may count him a rascal. And so it is, whenever you hear one of these knaves in a scowling ring the changes on his "loyalty," you may set it down, at once, that he was a cock for bringing on the war—that he wore a cockade, like Cautwell—that he was hot for "the black flag" and extermination of

Yankees—that he was hard on negroes, if he ever owned any—and that, for at least a year or more after the close of the war, he was loud mouthed in his hostility to negro juries, negro office holding, negro enfranchisement, and even negro testimony in the Courts!

From "loyalty," as illustrated by such fellows at the South, and by the mere nary parry schemes and designing enemies of Republican liberty at the North, we pray most fervently to be delivered.

If these men are the exponents and exemplars of "loyalty," count us as *disloyal*.

The Question of Labor.

The terrible insurrection which is now bringing misery and shame upon Paris and France, in its directly every civilized nation because of its connection with the most difficult social problems of the day—labor and capital. Even in this country, although it would seem as if centuries must elapse before those problems press their solution upon us, yet they begin to present themselves in various shapes in the great centres of population. The late strike in the coal districts of Pennsylvania differs from similar movements in Europe only in degree. Its solution seems to have been the voluntary emigration of a portion of the laborers which will increase the demand for labor at the mines, and enable it to command a better price. In Europe, the laborers being unable to emigrate, the solution would probably have been riot and bloodshed.

The theories of socialism took their rise when the development of modern industry created an apparent antagonism between capital and labor. We say apparent, for this antagonism is the effect of *fictitious* causes, and ought not to exist. Superficial observers think that because it is the interest of the employer to obtain labor at the lowest rate, and of the laborer to obtain the highest wages possible, therefore the capitalist and the laborer are natural enemies. It is this false idea which has caused so much suffering in all manufacturing countries for the last century. It is estimated by the New York papers that the recent strike in the coal mines has already cost the miners \$600,000 in wages lost.

Unfortunately, it is but too easy to persuade the working man, especially the European working man, who never accumulates anything, that his poverty is due to the oppression of the manufacturer, who he soon learns to consider as a blood-sucking vampire, growing rich upon the sweat and toil of the poor. Some extreme cases have sometimes arisen to serve as an apparent justification of this hatred of the poor towards the rich. The terrible insurrection of Lyons in 1834, which was not subdued until Marshal Soult was sent against it with an army of 40,000 men, was the result of the sufferings of the silk weavers. By consequence of excessive competition and a rise in the price of the raw material, the silk weavers saw their wages reduced to eighteen cents per day of eighteen hours' labor. The manufacturers could not give more without bringing ruin upon themselves. The weavers could not subsist on their wages, and they rose in arms, carrying banners, on which was inscribed: "If we can't live by our labor let us die fighting!" Many were killed, others imprisoned or exiled; and when their numbers had been thinned out, the rest managed to live. But the problem was not solved.

It is this fearful misery of the European masses in the cities and the manufacturing centres which has given rise to socialism. The last revolutions of France were social, much more than political. The emulates of 1848 and 1849 were essentially so, as well as this last insurrection of Paris. The 200,000 workmen of that city, without employment at the end of the war, quartered on their landlords for three quarters' rent and without any means of paying, were but too ready to believe those who told them that the government must support them, and if it would not, then overthrow it and establish another that would.

The most statesman-like utterance that has been heard in the French Chambers for many years, was that of M. Thiers before the Assembly some time ago. "If," said he, "the Republic is to be consolidated, it is only by undertaking emigration upon a large scale." He is right. The great evil under which nearly all Europe suffers, is over-density of population. If it were not for the safety-valve of emigration, England and Germany would long ago have been convulsed by socialistic revolutions. While the Germans, the Irish, the English emigrate by hundreds of thousands, the French do not emigrate at all. Hence the crowding of all professions and trades until, for every work that is to be done, there are two or three times more workers than are needed. Thus, the competition of the laborers themselves, under-bidding each other, reduces their wages to the lowest living standard; and if a crisis comes, some of them must starve unless the government feed them.

It is this state of things which explains the turbulence of the city populations of France. There the unfortunate workman has no future, and hope is crushed out of him. His prospect is to die in the public hospital, and be buried in the paupers' cemetery, leaving his family destitute behind him. In his ignorance of the laws of Political Economy he seeks in a change of government a relief which can arise only from a less crowded state of society. Too late he finds himself no better off under a republic than under a monarchy, and he is equally ready to revolt against both. America, even after all the errors of her rulers, is still the promised land of the European working man. Here alone he can have a certainty of rising to competency, honor and position, if he is only industrious and honest. Emigration is at once a blessing to him and a relief to his overburdened country.

The New York *Sun* (Radical) says: "President Grant has issued a proclamation preliminary to putting in force the unconstitutional electioneering Ku-Klux bill. Very good. Let him issue as many

proclamations as he likes. But he will do well to be very cautious in taking any more practical steps to carry out the bill. It is a double-edged weapon, and the edge reaches down into the very handle."

Grant's Renomination.

The New York *Sun* makes a count of the Northern side of the Senate on the Presidential question, and the result is by no means encouraging to Grant. Of the twelve New England Senators it claims that Morrill, of Maine, Patterson, Cragin, Morrill, of Vermont, Sumner, Sprague and Ferry are decidedly hostile to his renomination, while four others, Hamlin, Wilson, Anthony and Beckingham are either against him or like warm in his favor—leaving Edmunds, of Vermont, "his sole hearty supporter east of the Hudson." Of the Republican Senators from the Middle and Western States, it names Fenton, of New York, Schurz, Caldwell, of Illinois, and Wisconsin as "openly opposed to him," while it puts down Scott, of Pennsylvania, Sherman, of Ohio, and Pratt, of Indiana, as giving him "but feeble encouragement." The *Sun* thus sums up:

Without going into the elaborate States, whose Senators exert little influence upon public opinion, we here have a list of twenty-one Senators, more than half of whom stand foremost in the Senate, and fourteen of them are resolutely bent upon preventing Grant's renomination, while the other seven would doubtless refuse to see him re-elected.

The influence that defeated the nomination of Mr. Seward in 1860 had their fountain-head in the Senate, and fourteen of them are resolutely bent upon preventing Grant's renomination, while the other seven would doubtless refuse to see him re-elected.

These affairs are none of ours, and we propose to do no more than to glance at them as among the indications of the times.

"The Note in Thy Brother's Eye."

We suppose there is nothing which strikes us of the South as more extraordinary, than the gullibility of all classes of Northern people in regard to the social and political condition of those States formerly united as a Southern Confederacy. The whole South appears to be indeed a terra incognita to those whom the sword has decided shall be in future "our fellow citizens of the North."

This is true not only of those who by party affiliation might not unreasonably be expected to regard us with distrust and dislike, but it is even true of those who we suppose, on the whole, feel kindly towards us.

A remarkable instance of this "capacity to believe" has first been brought to our notice by a recent article in *The Nation*, a Democratic paper of great ability and influence. It is in regard to the Mr. Luce, a Northern man of the Radical persuasion, who came to North Carolina some twelve months ago and was employed by the Wilkes in superintending their iron works in the western part of the State, to whom we referred several days since. Having been found incompetent or unfaithful he was after trial, discharged by his employers, and returned to the North. Here, feeling very venomous toward the people among whom he had been quietly sojourning, and who while they refrained from social intercourse with him, had, we are informed, treated him kindly, he is seized with the *convulsions scribendi*, and writes a letter to the New York *Tribune*, in which the phials of his wrath are mercilessly poured out on our devoted heads. He charges that the Ku Klux not only existed in North Carolina, but that he himself had been a victim of this terrible order; that negroes were frequently and most mercilessly dogged by them, and that they were the objects of the target-practice of the Southern chivalry. Nay more, he informs the readers of the *Tribune*, that being in a thinly settled region, he opened a Church on his land (pious man!) and got an Episcopal Minister—an ex-Confederate by the way—to officiate in it and set up a Sunday school for negroes, but carefully excluded politics or anything relating to it from the course of instruction.

Immediately Ku-Klux commenced, the clergymen were maltreated and the scholars beaten and shot at—and the Episcopalian having been threatened with hanging—that worst use you can put a man to—was so frightened that he actually shut up his Church, and closed his Sunday-School operations.

Was there ever a story more improbable? Yet *The Nation*—in the whole as we have said friendly towards the South—believing every word of it, makes it the text for a long homily upon the advantages of civilization and education, of which we poor benighted Southerners possess so little.

The whole North will read this *canard* of the variegated Luce, but will never see, and would not believe if they saw, the denial in toto of the statements, made by Mr. Edmund Wilkes and others. The Rev. Mr. Murdoch, the clergyman alluded to though not now assisting at the Iron Mines is, we are informed, greatly beloved and respected by all classes of people in that region of the State, and is frequently a most welcome and cherished guest of the various families to whom he formerly ministered in sacred things. It is hardly necessary to say fathermore, that while he was living near the mines, he was never directly or indirectly an employee of Luce's.

Yet our Northern "fellow-citizens" so shrewd about many things, believe every word of this remarkable piece of evidence about the condition of the South.

We noticed the other day the trial and conviction of a man in Connecticut, who lived in habitual, open incest with five of his own daughters, his wife and the neighbors generally being well aware of the horrible relations existing between these young girls and their father. The Northern press has no time, in their anxiety to preach to the "howling barbarians" of the South, to utter one word of regret that such startling, shocking depravity could exist, heretofore unrebuked, in godly New England.

"Why beholdest thou the mote that is in

thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

The Washington correspondent of the Louisville *Ledger* states that the negroes of the District of Columbia are very pertinacious in asserting their claims to a share in the new territorial offices. There are about a dozen negro applicants for the Secretaryship of the Territory, made vacant by the election of the late incumbent as Delegate to Congress. Among the most persistent are Fred Douglas and Professor Livingston, of the negro law school in Washington.

A Narrow Gauge Railroad.

A narrow gauge railroad, an account of their cheapness and their practicability in places where it would not be possible to construct roads of the ordinary width, and which would afford a means of communication in the United States. A thirty mile road is in process of construction from Cape Girardeau to the iron banks in Bollinger county, Missouri, of which one mile is finished. The cost of this mile, laid with rails, has been \$6,537.00, and the cost of the entire thirty miles is estimated at \$213,000, allowing \$16,875 for culverts, bridges, &c. The road bed is six feet wide on top, following the rise and fall of the ground where it does not exceed seventy feet to the mile, and widening in places where it would not be possible to construct roads of the ordinary width, and which would afford a means of communication in the United States. 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